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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16, 1874.

The Municipal election of Greenville, resulted in the election of Robt. McKee, Mayor; L. F. Self, Recorder, and Capt. John McCoy, Constable.

It is a pity for Gov. Brown, after all his fine speeches all over the State, that ex-President Johnson is to defeat him for a seat in the Senate, on the very first ballot. Such a thing smacks of a repudiation of the Governor and his administration.

The Cincinnati papers continue to discuss the question as to what the real powers of the Trustees of the Cincinnati Southern road are. There is a wide difference of opinion on the subject, and there seems to be a good deal of feeling, which may possibly endanger or delay the success of the enterprise, but we hope not.

A CORRESPONDENT of the New York Herald, who professes to know, says that all the Democratic Representatives from Tennessee in the 44th Congress will vote for either Banks, of Massachusetts, or Cox, of New York, for Speaker. We don't believe they will vote for either. The same correspondent thinks Kerr, of Indiana, is ahead now for the Speakership.

CAPT. R. Y. JOHNSON, of Clarksville, is announced as a candidate for Comptroller. The *Tobacco Leaf* says "he has served a thorough training in banking from Clerk to Cashier, and was always a man of thorough business habits and the strictest integrity." It is astonishing how many men there is in the State, so presumptuous as to want Col. Barco's place, "humid atmosphere" and all.

In our interview with Prof. Olmstead, published Sunday morning, he represents Knoxville as standing ready to pledge \$50,000 to the Knoxville and Macon road. We learn from him that Mayor Staub pledges the city to that figure. Mayor Staub is a liberal public spirited gentleman, but it is possible that some of our citizens might not agree with him, and would not favor the city taking stock to that amount.

THE initial number of the *Athens Weekly News* is before us. It is independent in all things, and proposes to be just what its name indicates. Its typographic appearance is creditable, and its selections good. It has an educational department conducted by Rev. M. M. Callen, who, for one of his age, possesses more than ordinary ability. We wish the *News* abundant success. It is published by Thos. S. McWhirter & Co., editors and proprietors.

A GREAT deal has been said through the papers and otherwise about the management of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company. We do not profess to have the facts in the matter, but are of the opinion that matters do not stand just as they should. Congressman Whitthorne, of this State, has introduced a bill providing that suit shall be instituted against the Trustees, officers and agents of the Company, with a view to holding them personally liable for losses.

MAYOR STAUB published a call on the city tax-payers a few days ago, in which it is stated that only about one-sixth of the taxes of this year have been collected. Tax Collector Lewis reported to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen last night, a copy of which report appears elsewhere, that thirty-five per cent. of the taxes of 1874 have been collected. There is a slight discrepancy—say eighteen per cent., or a little more than one-half. One or the other of these gentlemen must be mistaken.

It will be seen by our dispatches this morning that Andrew Johnson's chances for the Senate are number one. He is to have sixty votes on the first ballot, which elects him and nine votes over. Thus a "disgraceful scramble" is to be averted, and the Legislature will be enabled to go into its legitimate work right away. But will not Brown, Savage, Quarles, Bate and all the others feel humiliated? Just think of all these ambitious gentlemen being struck down at one "fell swoop" on the first ballot!

H. V. R., of the Cincinnati *Commercial*, we are told, has gone to Vicksburg to write up the "facts" about the recent massacre. We will get them now certain. He possesses a remarkable capacity for getting up facts, so much so that we wonder why he didn't just remain at his home in Chattanooga and write up this case, without undergoing the fatigue and expense of a trip to Vicksburg. His imagination would have been ample for the occasion, and his statements about as correct as usual.

IS OUR COMMON SCHOOL SYSTEM TO BE RENDERED INOPERATIVE?

It appears from a note addressed by Hon. Jno. M. Fleming, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, to Hon. M. C. Kerr, of Indiana, inviting that gentleman to be present at an educational meeting at Nashville on the 20th and 21st instant, that our common school system is in danger of being abolished or rendered inoperative. This at least appears to be the opinion of Mr. Fleming, whose means of knowing are certainly good.

We have not seen a copy of his note to Mr. Kerr, but the *Union and American* says that the "central fact" contained in it, is "that there is a ground for apprehension, that an attempt will be made in our forthcoming Legislature to destroy the efficiency of the public school system, if not by its absolute repeal, at least, by such unfriendly legislation as will emasculate it and render it worthless."

Nothing is stated of the character of the legislation proposed, nor from what locality or source the danger is anticipated. We earnestly hope that the Superintendent's fears may prove groundless. We can scarcely comprehend how it is possible for such a thing to be brought about. The bare allusion to such a policy as coming within the range of probabilities, reflects discredit upon the intelligence and patriotism of the people of our State. Who that loves the name of Tennessee, and cherishes the fair reputation of the volunteer State, not blushed at the relative position she takes in the census of 1870? With all our boasted natural resources; our beautiful climate; our productive soil and rich mines, we stand second among the American States in point of literacy. Is it possible that there are those who are satisfied to remain thus? Are there men elected to our next Legislature who have no more interest in the youth of the State, than to leave them to grow up in ignorance?

It is hard for us to believe such things. And yet Mr. Fleming in his note to Mr. Kerr, has intimated or plainly said it is so, and he is the highest authority on the subject.

The State Teachers' Association meets in Nashville on the 29th and 31st of this month, as above stated, and we trust there may be a full attendance of those interested in the preservation and improvement of public schools. Let men of acknowledged ability and influence assemble on that occasion, and on behalf of the people, and the thousands of school children, let such an expression be given as will deter the enemies of common schools from tampering with them. To destroy the school system, or to do anything that would impair its efficiency, would be a deliberate act of suicide, and the people of the State are not yet prepared for so desperate a resort.

A SHORT paragraph in our dispatches this morning, less than three lines, tells more eloquently about the Vicksburg riot, than whole columns of partisan statements by one side or the other: "The negroes killed at Vicksburg number 150, forty-eight of whom were buried in one field." It is a story of butchery that must shock every humane person all over the land. One hundred and forty men ushered into eternity, murdered in cold blood, probably because a half dozen partisans could not have their own way. It is a fearful picture, and well calculated to make one despair of man's capacity for self government. When this whole matter is thoroughly sifted, if it ever is, it will be ascertained that there was no adequate cause for such wholesale bloodshed, and the occurrence will go down as a foul blot on American history.

The following editorial from the *Memphis Avalanche* on this subject is conceived in the right spirit:

The war between the colored and the white people of Vicksburg is a great calamity to both races, to Mississippi and to the Southwest. The material for a collision is no doubt abundant, and it is made combustible by hot-headed fellows who care nothing for the prosperity of Vicksburg or the State. The leaders on both sides, are most generally not identified with the substantial interests of the country, and hence have little to lose in the war they incite. They even take good care of their lives and precious bodies.

The political conclusions are against the whole community, and the good are condemned with the wicked. All are pronounced barbarous and unfit for civil government. Hence the appeal to military rule is made. The evil work of a four years' war still curses us. A restoration to the peace order of society is as slow as a return to specie payment. But we have always believed that if the good citizens in any community, in any State, would make up their minds against violence and mobs, they would easily subdue every opposition. The corruption of bad men who are in office, or who are plotting for official power, is a dangerous opponent, and if the local press aid or abet by appealing to prejudice and passion, the conservative citizen shrinks from an encounter, and gives way to the mob.

THE *Union and American* of Wednesday says:

A dispatch from Senator Brownlow intimates that Hon. W. H. Wheeler, of Bedford, can have the Russian Mission for the asking.

The *Banner* learns that Mr. Wisener will accept that position if it should be tendered.

PIONEERS.

We are accustomed to think of pioneer life as confined to the constantly advancing western frontier of our land, but in a country like the United States, we are all in some sense pioneers.

The pioneer's mission is to subdue the wilderness, make it habitable for mankind, and prepare the way for the dense population that shall follow.

We think this work done because block-house forts are replaced by railroad depots, and scattered frontier farms by towns and cities. But in a country of the vast extent and resources and the, as yet, scanty population of our own, we have in truth, only entered on a secondary stage of pioneer life.

The contrast between our land in the days of John Sevier, Simon Kenton and Daniel Boone and at the present day, is hardly greater than that which to-day will present to the future of a few generations hence.

England with all her millions does not greatly differ in size from Tennessee, France and Prussia, either of which has a population not greatly differing in numbers from that of the United States could both be carved out of our broad Western expanse of prairie and mountain without seriously diminishing our place on the map of North America. British India alone has a population several times as large as that of our great Republic.

We to-day owe a sacred duty to the millions, who are to occupy the land in the future. If the pioneer who bridges the stream and clears the forest path for the feet of those who follow him, and plants the trees in whose shade and fruit his children's children shall rejoice is entitled to the meed of duty faithfully done, no less is he who lays deep and broad and sound the foundations of society in principles and institutions which shall bless his posterity long after his earthly work is finished. The America of generations hence will bear the impress of the thoughts and the labors of the America of to-day.

Is there any cause, save that of religion, that will by our care bestow greater blessings upon our country, not only at the present but in the generations to come, than the great cause of popular education? Is there any which has already yielded richer rewards, both in our own and other nations, or any the neglect of which has been more keenly and disastrously felt?

The day has gone by when the subject of the benefit of general education need be considered as one needing discussion. Our common schools lie at the root of our national intelligence, progress and prosperity. But we need an increase of zeal in the cause, a unanimity of action, a fervor of purpose, before which opposition shall retire abashed, and lethargy be shamed into activity.

On a subject of this kind party politics and individual animosities should alike be unknown. Our community should be a unit, as if called to reap together some rich common harvest, or stay by united effort the flames of a conflagration that threatened our homes.

Much is to be done by wise and liberal legislation, much, too, by the faithful efforts of teachers and school officers, but all these means will fail of their full measure of success, unless supported by a zealous public sentiment.

We should feel that the cause of our schools is one which closely and deeply affects each of us as a citizen, a cause ultimately allied both with the material progress and the welfare, social and moral, of our entire community. And, feeling thus, we should lose no opportunity, public or private, of exerting all our influence in its behalf, and aiding to promote its efficiency and success. Let us do so, and we shall be richly repaid, not only in the future but in the present.

THERE is evidently a large number of people in this country who look with some degree of pleasure, at every successful attempt to blacken the character of a Christian minister. Nor is this disposition confined exclusively to "men of the world," as the phrase goes. Professing Christians sometimes look on with ill concealed complacency at the mishaps of ministers, not of their sect or creed. If one falls, they manifest a disposition to join in with the outside rabble, and are eager to give the poor unfortunate a kick and accelerate his speed down the inclined plane to ruin and disgrace. It is much easier to help a man "down hill" than it is "up hill." This is true of all men and ministers are no exception to the rule. Let the breath of suspicion be once blown on the character of the Christian minister, and there will be no lack of those to give it force, and the ingredients for blackening his reputation will be forthcoming without stint.

THE *Nashville Bulletin* has again changed hands, and in the future will be conducted by J. T. Bell, late city editor of the *Union and American* as joint proprietor and managing editor. Mr. Bell has had considerable experience in the newspaper business. He is a good writer and a live man. We wish him and his journal continued success.

SPAIN'S FUTURE.

There is an interesting tradition, which the pen of an English poet has beautifully embalmed, that some of the Moors still preserve the keys of their houses in Granada, in the hope of one day returning to re-possess the land.

Driven away by the Spaniards, so many weary generations ago, from the bright and beautiful land of their earlier home, they wait on the shores of Africa for the day when, with the glad shout of "Allah il Allah!" they shall again behold their beautiful Granada, and mid ringing shot and clashing steel the Crescent shall be planted above the Cross, and the followers of the Prophet drive the hated Gloom from the land he has so long polluted by his presence.

It might be interesting to know just what bearing upon that longed-for event the present condition of affairs might present to the Moor. What is to be the result of the terrible intestine war which has now so long desolated the fair and sunny realm of Ferdinand and Isabella, or rather of the political chaos of which the Carlist struggle is one of the results? That war will probably end before very long in the suppression of the insurrection, although Spain (which gave us the word "guerrilla") is more apt than most nations to prolong, under some circumstances, a hopeless, bloody house-to-house struggle.

But after this, what then? Are the terrible and strangely shifting scenes through which that unhappy land has passed since the flight of her profligate Queen only a fresh stirring up of the degraded and savage spirit that finds vent in that national pastime and disgrace, the bull fight? Or is the old land struggling in earnest to shake off the fatal lethargy under which she has so long lain prostrate, and remembering the days of King Diaz and Diego Perez, of Ponce de Leon and De Soto to enter upon a career of national manhood, energy and progress?

Spain, with somewhat of the vigor of her earlier days, and with the dark parts that marred those earlier days cast aside under the light of the 19th century, the Inquisition and the Auto de fe exchanged for civil and religious liberty and the bull ring replaced by the common school, would be a spectacle to delight the vision of every lover of humanity. May this be the meaning of the terrible ordeal through which the people of the Peninsula are now passing.

And certainly if the pen of Emilio Castelar utters the thought and aspirations of any considerable number of his countrymen, there is a spirit abroad in the nation from which it is not too much to expect important and beneficial results.

ONE WAY TO DO IT.

An observing traveler, passing through Ohio, can not fail to note two facts that confront him in every mile of his progress through the populous and fast-increasing Commonwealth—the small size of her farms and the thorough manner in which they are cultivated. With all her vast mineral resources and prosperous industrial enterprises, she is yet an agricultural State, with rich and happy farmers. From her Queen City, northward, the traveler passes through a beautiful farming country dotted thick with large, well-built farm houses, splendid barns and overflowing granaries. The average sized farms is now less than one hundred acres. Upon these few acres her farmers put more labor and fertilizers than our Tennessee farmers do upon three times that acreage. The result is, that the same territory there, contains over twice the population and wealth. This should not be. Tennessee possesses superior natural advantages. Her people are capable of accomplishing as much, if they but determine to do it. This brings us to a subject not new to the readers of the *Chronicle*. On every occasion and at every pretext we wish to press upon them. We have too much unproductive land; too many half cultivated farms and too many idle hands in Tennessee. We talk about immigration and wait for some patent process to bring us wealth and capital. While thus waiting with folded hands for outside help, we fail to do for ourselves what we can and ought to do. We have land monopolists who are enlarging their farms, from two to four and ten and even twenty hundred acres. Instead of dividing our farms, multiplying farmers and quadrupling our productions, we are crippling our State by the opposite policy. Small farms and better cultivated lands will bring us population. Population brings capital; capital infuses life into the State by industrial enterprises and giving labor to mechanics. Well paid and happy laboring men sustain large cities and swell the business of the tradesmen. These desirable results follow in the order we have named them. We might as well build a pyramid upon its apex, as to try to make prosperous cities and populous towns and thriving business men and wealthy manufacturers and independent workmen in the midst of sedge fields, and half cultivated fields and unproductive farms of hundreds of acres. There is no use of minding words. We have put the wrong foot forward in our march towards a great

State. We must partly retrace our steps and the first thing to do is to divide up our farms, sell off our surplus lands cheap and invite from the South, North and from Europe, hard working, intelligent farmers. They must begin the work of recuperation, and with their aid our pathway will be clear and our march rapid and successful. In their wake capital and manufacturing enterprises follow as a matter of course.

CINCINNATI SOUTHERN RAILROAD.

The discussion of the Cincinnati Southern road question continues to claim a good deal of space in the papers of that city, and it may be judged from the papers, the people are also talking as well as thinking about the policy which has been adopted by the Trustees in reference to the construction of the road. The discussion begins to take a wide range, as will be seen by the following extract from a communication published in the *Commercial*:

Touching Mr. Bishop's statement that this road would pay when built, your correspondent of a conversation he had with a Southern railroad gentleman, himself an extensive builder of roads, about the time of letting the Tennessee contracts. He had just passed over the line from Chattanooga to South Danville, with the view of building on large portions of the road. Incidentally the opinion was expressed that the road would not pay in fifty years. He replied: "It will not pay in a hundred years; it will never pay!"

This correspondent then asks: "What has become of the Cincinnati, Cumberland Gap and Charleston Road? The grade was finished, perhaps, twenty years ago from Morristown, Tenn. see to the Gap, as well as other expensive sections, and but thirty-four miles are now running. It can be built cheap. That 'link' that General Coombs, before the war, so forcibly brought to the attention of our citizens, by which the North and South were to be united by this short road from Lexington to Danville, is now the property of the Trustees of the city, and would not be good policy to first finish it? The abutments across the Kentucky River and the grading done between Nicholasville and Danville are also the property of the same parties. It appears to one who is not much of a railroad man that Hooper is right."

Another correspondent of the same paper professes to give the views of Mr. Hooper, one of the Trustees, who, it is claimed, is not satisfied with the policy now prevailing. He says:

Hooper tells the whole story. He is inside—of the Trustees—acting on responsibility, thoroughly informed, a sound, sensible man, who has not failed in his business, who is not a schemer, not an enemy of the road, not a scoundrel, has a good stomach—the one thoroughly competent man. He tells us it is notorious, the road can not be built for ten millions, and that the plan of building it adopted will scatter this sum along the whole line, give us an unfinished road and force the city to spend other millions.

These extracts, which we might multiply at considerable length, go to show that there is a pretty formidable public sentiment in Cincinnati against the present management of the road. It is feared by the conservative people of that conservative sort of city, that too much money may be required to build the road as it was originally contemplated. It is this class that opposes building a bridge over the Ohio, which will cost millions, and favors adopting the Kentucky Central, from Covington to Lexington, as a part of the line, for the present, at least. On this subject a Lexington correspondent of the *Courier-Journal* of a late date says:

Under the circumstances, it is pretty safe to predict that if the road is ever made, it will be by the adoption of the Central, as far as it goes, and the continuation of the route from that point. This is to be regretted on account of the disappointment of our Scott county and other friends who feel, as well as for other reasons; but it really seems to be the only way out of the road, which the Trustees are endeavoring to build. Nobody who knows anything of the difficult nature of the country through which the road must pass need be told that it will take every dollar the Trustees can raise on the sale of their bonds to build it, and if, indeed, they can do it for that. And nobody who knows anything about Cincinnati need be told that not one cent more will be voted by that city. As for the Kentucky counties and towns along the route, they are prohibited from taking stock.

The *Indianapolis Journal* makes allusion to the correspondence of the *Courier-Journal*. After giving a history of this Southern railroad project, and alluding to the controversy which has recently sprang up, it says:

Then, too, the wrangling has had the result of depreciating the city's credit to that extent that it is next to impossible to negotiate the balance of the \$10,000,000 of bonds which the city was authorized to issue, and so the trustees find themselves out of money. All this lends a strong degree of probability to the statement of the Louisville *Courier-Journal's* correspondent at Lexington, who says there are serious apprehensions there that the whole project is to be abandoned. This may, however, be only the expression of Louisville's jealousy. Should it be true, Cincinnati may as well fence herself in and devote her energy to developing the hidden beauties of Eden Park and the construction of those wonderful "fills" which annually torture the soul of the weary tax-payer, only opening the gates once a year to admit the people who generously come forward to put a little life into her by visiting her Exposition.

A LEXINGTON SPECIAL TO THE *Courier-Journal* says:

The apprehension is growing here that the disagreement of the trustees and of the press and the people of Cincinnati on the Southern railroad is but preliminary to the abandonment of the whole project.

The *Jonesboro' Herald and Tribune* says: Mr. Skelton Taylor, who resides in this vicinity, while out hunting yesterday, met with the misfortune to have one of his hands literally shot to pieces. The gun was discharged prematurely, as we are informed. Drs. Wheeler, Gibson and Hunter were called in to amputate the hand.

SKETCHES OF ALABAMA.

Crops, Cotton, Money, Politics and the Situation Generally.

EDITORS *CHRONICLE*: Finding time and opportunity I will pen you a few lines from this point.

The weather has been delightful nearly all the time I have been in the State, and to see persons in their "shirt-sleeves" to-day one would almost imagine summer had "come again."

The two nights preceding this have been quite cool and frosty with some ice, but nothing like I presume you are having.

Crops generally are quite short in the portions of the State over which I have traveled, and consequently money matters are exceedingly close.

The quantity of cotton is small, but the quality is unusually fine, owing to the fine fall which enabled the planters to save it in fine condition. Some is not yet picked, but the bulk of it is now coming into market. It is commanding from 12 to 13 cents.

The leading topic among the planters seems to be how to manage negro labor to the best advantage. The interest is much greater in this than politics just now. It is a vital question which may visibly affect one's supplies.

No doubt but the negroes, to a great extent, have been indolent and careless, neglecting their crops and discussing politics too much. While some have been mistreated or defrauded, I think in the main their former masters are disposed to treat them fairly. I have enquired minutely into this knotty problem since I came into the State, and the above is the result. I asked an intelligent colored man to-day if he could make any money farming in Alabama. He said "he could make a living if crops were good, and we don't trade it out in the stores." I asked him how they farmed; he said "if the white man furnished stock, feed, seed, etc., he (white man) gets one-third of the cotton and another one-third of the corn; but if we furnish everything, he (white man) gets one-fourth of the cotton and one-third of the corn."

"Well," said I "can't you make money at that?" "Yes, if crops were good." There is much poor land here and a great deal very good. Six bushels of wheat to the acre is about the average, but sometimes as much as 20 bushels to the acre is raised.

Corn and oats do better. Most farmers are trying to raise bread and meat to do them.

The Alabama and Dalton Railroads are accumulating funds or at least run little else than "accommodation" trains, and very few of them. When you go to Childersburg, be sure and don't put up at that "boarding-house" there, unless you want to fare badly and pay dearly for it.

You can put up at the saw-mill unless you conclude to "call again." Childersburg is the point at which the Savannah and Memphis road will cross the S. R. and D. road. It is completed to within 25 miles of the place and it is thought will be completed that far by spring.

This place seems to be quite a business point and in a prosperous condition. The population is 2,000 or upward, I suppose, and there is a Theological Institution here for the colored people; a deaf and dumb institution, besides some other institutions of learning. It is the county site of Talladega county and seems to control a great deal of the county trade.

I hear comparatively little said on political subjects now. The people seem to be contented and applying their time and energies more to re-education, curtailing expenses and preparing for another crop. Business generally is being done on a much safer basis than since the war, but still the merchants are carrying large amounts, for the payment of which their crops are pledged. There will be less of this done next year than the present. I trust next year will be one of good crops generally and then we will have peace properly.

Yours as ever, H. A. T.

Talladega, Ala., Dec. 10, 1874.

A Little Story That Calls For Tears.

You remember that about four years ago Governor John C. Brown gave a grand banquet at the Maxwell House, where wine and speech flowed freely. Toward the close of the gubernatorial feast Governor Brown and General W. A. Quarles exchanged toasts, wishing that each other might eclipse Mathiasel in the matter of years, going that ancient patriarch thirty-one years better. They don't seem to entertain such lofty opinions of each other now. As the common phrase runs they are "at outs," and it is not very probable they will ever get in with each other again. Since the announcement of General Quarles for the United States Senatorship it has become currently reported that previous to the gubernatorial banquet it was understood between Governor Brown and General Quarles that the former was to give way to the latter, permitting Quarles to receive the nomination for Governor. It is spoken of as having been a sort of compromise between them, both being aspirants to the same position. But notwithstanding this Governor Brown pushed his claims, was nominated and was again elected to the position he now holds. It is therefore thought impossible for Quarles and Brown ever to make any combination against Johnson should it be found necessary. But even were Quarles not an aspirant to the position he would in nowise support Brown, so wide is the political breach between them. General Quarles' three column announcement is spoken of here as a favorable and ingenious document. It will be noticed that his paper is addressed to the General Assembly, before which he wishes to contest the honor to be conferred.—*Washington Correspondent Memphis Avalanche*.

The body of Absalom Guinn, one of the oldest citizens of Melges county, was found in the Tennessee River, near Stewart's Warehouse, on Saturday, the 14th instant. It had evidently been in the water several days. The jury of inquest returned a verdict of accidental drowning. Deceased was old and infirm, and at times partially insane.—*Athens Post*.

The Kingston Independent says: At the annual meeting of the Kingston Foundry and Machine Works, recently held in this place, the old Board of Directors, with the exception of Col. P. A. Whiting and G. T. Potter, were re-elected, with Mr. J. M. Denning as President and Manager.